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Les maladies épidémiques de l'esprit, sorcellerie, magnétisme, morphimisme, délire des grandeurs. Dr. PAUL REGNARD. Paris, 1887, 429 pp.

This book, which is illustrated with 120 engravings, is, like the preceding work, of a somewhat popular character, but is more miscellaneous. The first part deals with diabolic pacts, the sabbat, sigilla diaboli, magic scriptic characters, and other attendants of sorcery, which is called a creation of despair. Cuts from the seventeenth century show the various forms of attack at home, in the church, on the street, characteristic contractures. The process of the witches' Sabbath is depicted in cuts illustrating the departure, the journey, the transformations, characteristic goblins, parody of every sacred rite of the church, cooking and banqueting on toads and babies. Then follow illustrations representing flagellation, torture of witches, rites of exorcism. A long chapter is devoted to the miracles of Saint Médard, with full and illustrated history of six cases, followed by cuts illustrating similar hysterical paralyses and anaesthesias, meteorism, crucifixion-attitudes, etc., of to-day, curable by suggestion. Much space is devoted to Mesmer and his baquet, which is thought to be related to the monotonous, contemplative asceticism of the fakirs. Minute and illustrated directions for producing each of Charcot's three states show how minutely faithful is the author's discipleship of Charcot, to whom the book is dedicated. Then follow sections on opium, with pictures of all the stages in its growth and manufacture, sale and use. Finally come illustrations, in the form of poems, letters, drawings, script, etc., of delirium of greatness. The pathologic character of each age is indicated as follows: Magic was the epidemic of the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. St. Médard summarizes the mental maladies of the eighteenth century. Somnambulism began in the seventeenth and has its great field in the nineteenth, the century also of morphomania and widespread democratic delusions of greatness. The psychic pestilence of the twentieth century may be a delirium of carnage, blood, destruction. In this of course the allusion is to the European war prospects, over-population, and Nihilism.

This work makes almost no pretensions to a scientific character, and as an historical study is of very slight value. We believe its tone and taste throughout to be as unwholesome as the curiosity of the ladies and gentlemen to whom these lectures were addressed. A purely miscellaneous collection of psychic aberrations of this highly imitative and contagious type, not explained but merely depicted, is perhaps less vicious than public exhibitions of hypnotic phenomena, but can serve no useful end, and could not absorb the energies of a mind of scientific type intent upon their scientific elucidation.

Animal Magnetism. ALFRED BINET and CHARLES FÉRÉ. London, 1887, 378 pp. International Scientific Series, Vol. LX.

This is the only work in English that attempts a systematic presentation of the results of the study of hypnotism which has been carried on so assiduously for the past eight years or more by physicians, physiologists, neurologists, alienists and jurists, etc., in France. The subject is full of both scientific and practical interest, and we commend this book to physicians and students of psychology of all

schools. One French physician declares that hypnotism has already contributed results as important for the scientific knowledge of disease as bacteriology, and is likely to be even more practical in the treatment of a large and, in our age, a rapidly increasing class of maladies. Another asserts that somnambulatory hyperaesthesia and mental exaltation supply the experimental psychologist with an instrument likely to prove as important for clinical medicine as the invention of the microscope for the pathologist.

This work opens with an historical sketch of the subject from Mesmer and Braid to Liebeault and Heidenheim. Those who have the hypnotic neurosis may be hypnotized, at least after more or less education if not at first, by the noise of crumpling paper, the tick of a watch, the beat of a gong, the odor of musk, a bright light, looking at not only a button but at their sewing, by a fixed attitude as of prayer, and by gazing in the mirror, contact, even accidental, with a hypnogenous zone, by suggestion, which may act by causing an intense memory-image of fatigue, etc. Some, it is said, may be hypnotized, not only against their will but without their knowledge, or even asleep, or by the proximity of an unsuspected magnet. Touching a pre-designated object; looking at an imaginary lamp; the bark of a dog, or the advent of a time appointed days or even months before, may cause this state.

The symptoms of hypnotism must be studied by defining most carefully the physical states of the subjects, and also the processes employed, and by beginning with simple and physical as opposed to mental phenomena. Thus Charcot's famous three states or nosographic groups were formulated in 1882, and have been much further studied by his pupils. I. Lethargy. This is marked by muscular flaccidity, closed eyes, and dull senses. Localized contractures are caused by pressing muscles, or excitement by touch, magnet or faradic current in nerves or tendons which persist in the limbs but not in the face. Three characteristic attitudes of the hand, caused thus by different local stimulus (ulnar, median and radial), are distinguished. If the limb is restrained from contracting upon such stimulus, the antagonist muscles soon act. These local effects are said to be transferred to the corresponding part of the other symmetrical median half of the body by a magnet, and by arresting circulation in the stimulated limb the contracture is made "latent" and appears as an after-effect of the stimulus when the ligature is first removed. II. The cataleptic or fascinated state, of a waxy flexibility, without tendon reflex, or neuro-muscular hyper-excitability. The extended limb does not tremble as it does if held in position by the will. The face takes on the expression of the same sentiment expressed by the attitude into which the limbs are placed. III. The somnambulatory state is the most complex, and is marked by hyper-sensitiveness whether to sensations or to suggestions. The slightest touch or breath often causes muscular contraction, of less local character than that resulting from the much stronger stimuli exciting contracture in lethargy. In somnambulism the various hyper-excitabile spots or zones—erogenic, reflexogenic, dynamogenic, hypnogenic, hysterogenic—are best studied. The magnet may change the rapport of elective somnambulism into hate. Thus it is claimed that using only strongly hysterical subjects, the existence of three clearly demarcated experimental nervous states is established.

This fundamental study of physical characteristics distinguishes the conclusions of the Paris investigators from those of Bernheim

and his school at Nancy, who do not find the muscular effects constant, and thus do not recognize the first two of the above states as distinctive, doubt the influence of the magnet, and believe all hypnotic phenomena due to suggestion. All, however, admit that suggestion may reproduce and magnify every fact of mental life, the dominion of suggested ideas being due to their increased intensity caused by psychical hyper-excitability. In the study of suggestion, simulation and unconscious suggestion must be rigorously excluded. The exploration of its effects has but just begun, for in a fit subject it seems able to produce all the actions possible for the nervous system, and what are the limits of what the nervous system can do is at present unknown. Focachon caused vesication by suggestion with the aid of a plaster made of postage stamps in twenty-four hours, the patient being watched and the blister photographed. Epistaxis and even blood sweats are thus produced. Any part of the body of an hysterical patient is proven by Mosso's process to change in volume, as *e. g.* a limb, by fixing the attention on it. Commonly ideas are secondary products; they are resultants developed from below upward. Suggested processes, conversely, are epiphenomena; they begin in the centres of ideation and are developed to lower planes. This makes facts like the above and psychical paralysis entirely inexplicable on the theories of any of the existing psychological schools. In the hallucinations of hypnotism, subjects can add imaginary figures; receive wounds which they see, feel and dress; clasp imaginary objects; be transformed to a dog, a piece of glass; see correct mixtures, contrasts, and after-images of imaginary colors, of imaginary objects that are doubled if one eye is pressed, or a prism placed before one, and that are magnified by seeing them through an imaginary opera glass or microscope. Hallucinatory portraits are seen on blank cards, or on cards already photographed with entirely different faces. In viewing imaginary objects, convergence and pupillary aperture vary correctly with their changing distance. Sometimes these hallucinations persist in a waking state and are believed. Any commanded act whatever, though with varying degrees of resistance, is done, criminal though it be. Paralysis, which may be complete for a single limb or for all the muscles on one side of the body, can be caused by suggestion, and this is usually attended by an anaesthesia so complete that the subject really loses the limb, and must find it by searching with the eyes or other hand. Aboulia for a single act may be caused while all others can be done. He is unable *e. g.* to write the word *not*, while he can write all three letters in other combinations. Even this is said to be attended with reduced muscular power in the hand as tested by the dynamometer. The phenomena of the transfer of motor or sensory disturbances from one bilateral half of the body to the other, are described, and the work closes with a brief statement of the forensic and therapeutic aspects of hypnotism.

The book is a very useful and timely one, but is quite diffusely written. We should far rather have had a treatise written by a representative of the Nancy school of hypnotism, with less stress laid on the agency of magnets and action at a distance. The standpoint of these authors is but half scientific. This, we think, will become plain in the further discussion of the subject in this journal.